

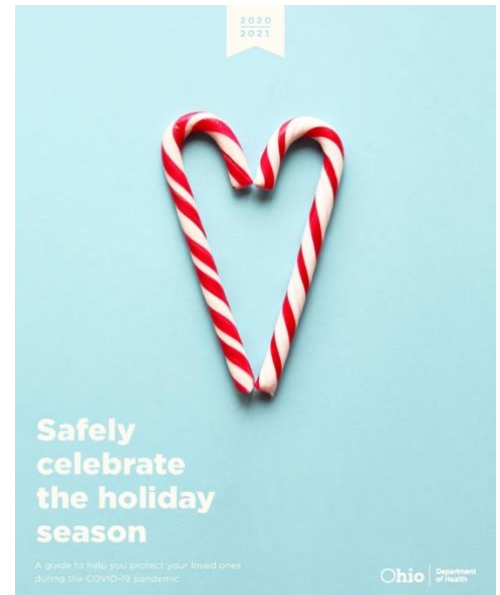
TOOLKIT – SAFELY CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Introduction

Ohio's COVID-19 holiday guide, "Safely celebrate the holiday season," shares suggestions for ways to safely celebrate holidays from November 2020 through January 2021. With socially distant strategies, recipes, and crafts, this comprehensive guide shares tips for safely celebrating Diwali, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Las Posadas, Nochebuena, Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, Epiphany, Orthodox Christmas, Orthodox New Year's Day, Tu B'Shvat, and Bodhi Day.

The Ohio Department of Health was able to create this guide for celebrating the holidays during the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to the staff at the Stark County Health Department, who generously shared content from their guide to assist in developing one that could be shared with all Ohioans.

Please use the information in this toolkit, outlined below, to help point Ohioans to the suggestions in the holiday guide, which is [available to download here](#).



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Trusted Resources and Links

As you look for trusted sources of holiday guidance for additional efforts, consider these helpful links below:

- “Safely celebrate the holiday season,” the Ohio Department of Health’s COVID-19 holiday guide for 2020 - 2021 - <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/resources-for-parents-and-families/holiday-celebrations>
- CDC Holiday Celebrations and Small Gatherings Guidance - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>
- Ohio Department of Health coronavirus website - <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov>

Newsletter Content

Headline (option 1): Guide to celebrating holidays during the COVID-19 pandemic now available

Headline (option 2): The holidays are different this year, but just as meaningful as ever

Content:

The holiday season is traditionally marked by large, festive gatherings with family, friends, and colleagues. With COVID-19 cases spreading across Ohio, this year will be different as we find unique ways to celebrate while protecting one another from this disease. We can, and should, still be merry – but we must keep COVID-19 precautions in mind when planning how we’ll celebrate.

That is why, in the spirit of the season, the Ohio Department of Health has created “Safely celebrate the holiday season,” a comprehensive [COVID-19 holiday guide for 2020-2021](#). It includes socially distant strategies, recipes, and crafts for safely celebrating Diwali, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Las Posadas, Nochebuena, Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day, Epiphany, Orthodox Christmas, Orthodox New Year’s Day, Tu B’shvat, and Bodhi Day. The [guide](#) was put together thanks to the Stark County Health Department generously sharing the content and template of its holiday guide.

While the [guide](#) has detailed suggestions for several specific holidays, keep in mind that the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic is to celebrate holidays at home with members of your household. If you do decide to get together with others, please keep the gathering small (10 people or fewer) and stick to the basics:

- Make sure everyone who can safely do so wears a mask.
- Make sure everyone is washing their hands or using sanitizer.
- Whenever feasible, stay 6 feet from one another.
- Regularly disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- If you are sick, stay home and away from others as much as possible.

[Click here to download “Safely celebrate the holiday season,” the Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 holiday guide for 2020-2021.](#)

[Click here for additional guidance on holiday gatherings from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.](#)

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Audio Announcement

The drafted script below can be used for on-hold phone call messaging, announced over the P.A. system in retail locations, shared at the beginning of virtual meetings, etc. It can be recorded from a high-level company executive or anyone with a friendly voice at your organization. Using tools like the built-in voice memo or audio recorder app on a phone, especially when paired with an external microphone, makes it easy to get a clear recording.

Audio Script





Happy Holidays! I'm [name, job title, association with company, name of company (ex. "Taylor Smith, CEO of Ohio Superstore")]. While we celebrate the holiday season during the fight against COVID-19, it is important that all of us take proper precautions to protect one another. This year, the best way to protect yourself and others is to celebrate at home with members of your household. If you decide to get together with others, keep the gathering limited to 10 people or fewer, regularly disinfect surfaces, and remember the basics: make sure everyone wears masks, washes their hands, and stays 6 feet from one another. If you are sick, stay home and away from others as much as possible. In this unprecedented year, we encourage you to get creative, do things differently, and start new traditions. Happy Holidays, and stay safe, Ohio.

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Graphics and Artwork

Generic graphics, as well as some for a selection for some, but not all, of the holidays included in the guide, are included below.

Generic

Facebook	Twitter
	
Instagram	Story
	

TOOLKIT – SAFELY CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Virtual Celebration (generic)

Facebook



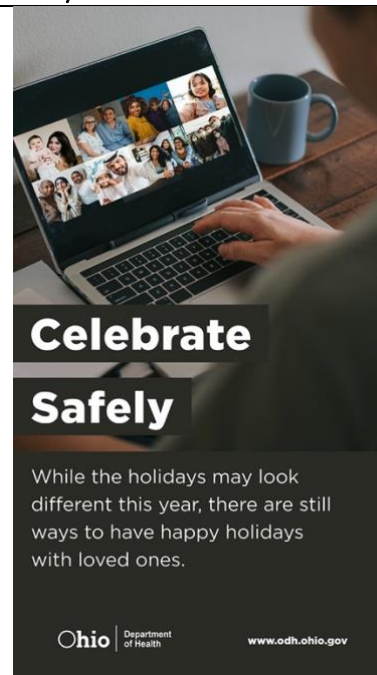
Twitter



Instagram



Story



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Thanksgiving

Facebook



Twitter



Instagram



Story



TOOLKIT – SAFELY CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Hanukkah

Facebook



Twitter



Instagram







Story



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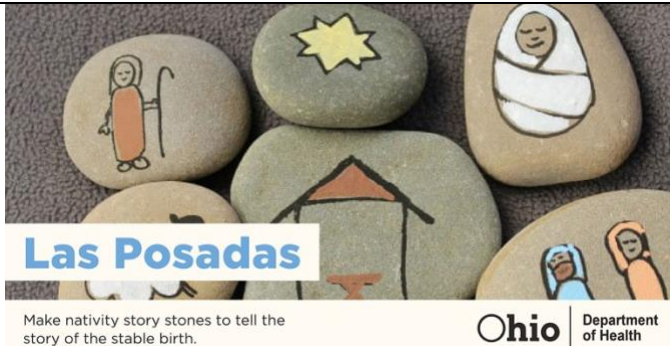
Winter

<p>Facebook</p>  <p>Let It Snow</p> <p>Hold a virtual snowman building contest with family and friends and share photos online.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Health</p>	<p>Twitter</p>  <p>Let It Snow</p> <p>Hold a virtual snowman building contest with family and friends and share photos online.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Health</p>
<p>Instagram</p>  <p>Let It Snow</p> <p>Hold a virtual snowman building contest with family and friends and share photos online.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Health</p>	<p>Story</p>  <p>Let It Snow</p> <p>Hold a virtual snowman building contest with family and friends and share photos online.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Health www.odh.ohio.gov</p>

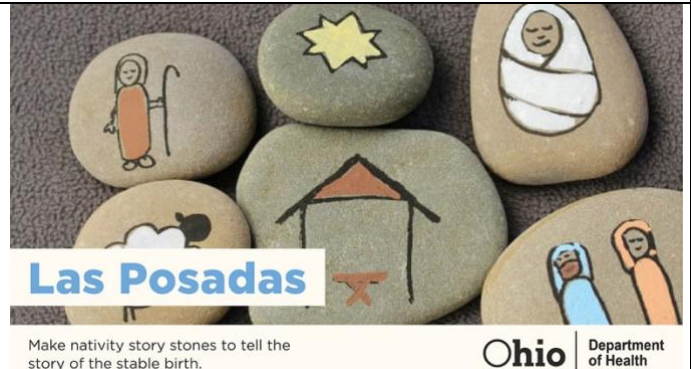
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Las Posadas

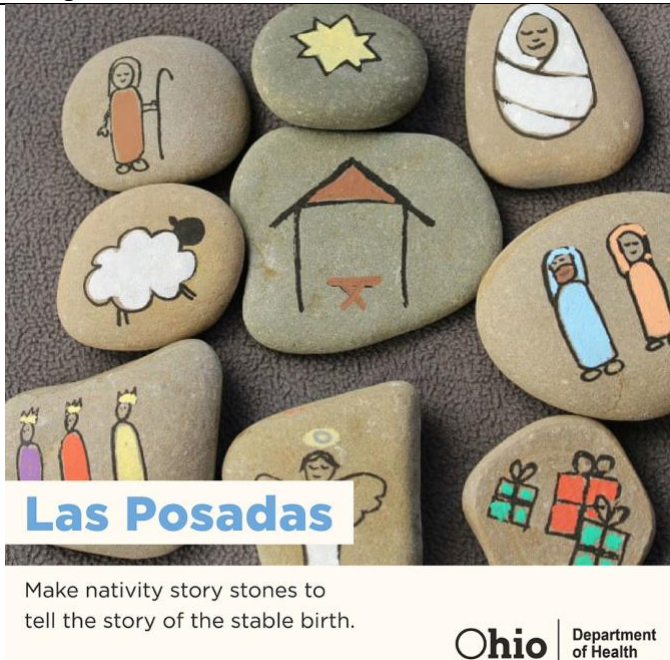
Facebook



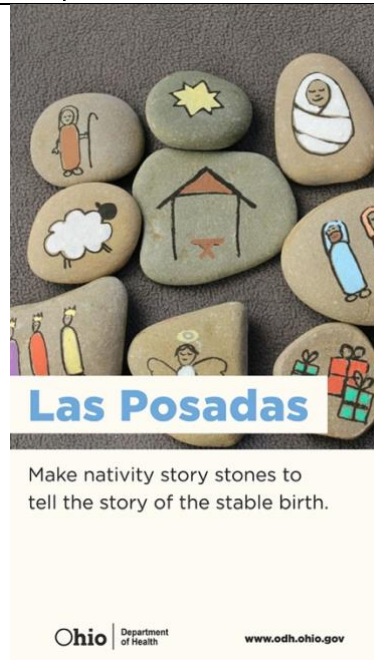
Twitter



Instagram



Story



TOOLKIT – SAFELY CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Christmas

Facebook



Christmas

Create a holiday season-to-do list or bingo card with ideas for celebrating the holiday.

Ohio | Department of Health

Twitter



Christmas

Create a holiday season-to-do list or bingo card with ideas for celebrating the holiday.

Ohio | Department of Health

Instagram



Christmas

Create a holiday season-to-do list or bingo card with ideas for celebrating the holiday.

Ohio | Department of Health

Story







Christmas

Create a holiday season-to-do list or bingo card with ideas for celebrating the holiday.

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New Year

<p>Facebook</p>  <p>New Year's</p> <p>Host a virtual New Year's Eve party with family and friends. Send party horns and noisemakers in advance.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Health</p>	<p>Twitter</p>  <p>New Year's</p> <p>Host a virtual New Year's Eve party with family and friends. Send party horns and noisemakers in advance.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Health</p>
<p>Instagram</p>  <p>New Year's</p> <p>Host a virtual New Year's Eve party with family and friends. Send party horns and noisemakers in advance.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Health</p>	<p>Story</p>  <p>New Year's</p> <p>Host a virtual New Year's Eve party with family and friends. Send party horns and noisemakers in advance.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Health www.odh.ohio.gov</p>

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Social Media

See below for suggested social media content. Images are helpful for expanding the reach of social media posts. Feel free to use the graphics and images contained beginning on page 4 of this toolkit, or use your own images matching the content of each post.

Hashtags

- #InThisTogetherOhio
- #MasksOnOhio
- #StaySafeOhio
- #SupportLocalOhio
- #OhioSmallBusinesses
- #ResponsibleRestartOhio
- #COVID19



Suggested social media content

Subject/ holiday	Timing	Facebook Message	Twitter/Instagram Message
Generic	Any time	This #holiday season, the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones is to celebrate at home with members of your household. If you decide to get together with others, keep the gathering small (10 people or less), wear masks, wash hands, stay 6 feet from one another, and disinfect frequently touched surfaces. And, as always, if you are sick, stay home and away from others as much as possible. https://bit.ly/36H8apf	This #holiday season, the best way to protect yourself & your loved ones is to celebrate at home w/ members of your household. If you decide to include others, limit the gathering to 10 people or less, wear masks, wash hands, & stay 6 feet from one another. https://bit.ly/36H8apf
Generic	Any time	Spread joy, not COVID-19. Download the @Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 holiday guide for tips on safely celebrating so we can all be healthy and merry this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf	Spread joy, not #COVID19. Download the @Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 hHoliday guide for tips on safely celebrating so we can all be healthy and merry this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf




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Subject/ holiday	Timing	Facebook Message	Twitter/Instagram Message
Generic	Any time	<p>The holiday season is traditionally marked by large, festive gatherings with family, friends, and colleagues. With COVID-19 spreading in all areas of the state, we need to focus on protecting one another while celebrating. Download the @Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 holiday guide for suggestions on how to celebrate safely this season.</p> <p> https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>With #COVID19 spreading throughout Ohio, #holiday gatherings will look different while we focus on protecting one another & preventing the spread of the virus.</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for suggestions on how to celebrate safely this season.</p> <p> https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>
Thanksgiving	Prior to Nov. 26	<p>This #Thanksgiving, consider a small dinner with members of your household, a virtual call with extended family to share what you're thankful for, and your very own "turkey trot" with a walk around the neighborhood. 🦃👟</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more Thanksgiving ideas, as well as tips for other upcoming holidays and additional ways to celebrate safely this holiday season.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>This #Thanksgiving, consider a small dinner with members of your household & a virtual call with extended family to share what you're thankful for.</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on how to safely celebrate all season long. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>

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Subject/ holiday	Timing	Facebook Message	Twitter/Instagram Message
Hanukkah	Prior to Dec. 10	<p>This #Hanukkah, consider holding a virtual menorah lighting or visiting eight of your closest family members or friends with a special #Hanukkah drive-by parade. </p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more Hanukkah ideas, as well as tips for other upcoming holidays and additional ways to celebrate safely this holiday season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>This #Hanukkah, consider holding a virtual menorah lighting or visiting 8 of your closest family members or friends with a special #Hanukkah drive-by parade. </p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on how to safely celebrate all season long. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>
Hanukkah	Dec. 10 - 18	<p>Happy #Hanukkah! Before you light the menorah tonight, consider sharing the light with friends and family near and far by including them on a video call.</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more Hanukkah ideas, as well as tips for other upcoming holidays and additional ways to celebrate safely this holiday season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>Happy #Hanukkah! Before you light the menorah tonight, consider sharing the light with friends and family near and far by including them on a video call.</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more Hanukkah ideas, as well as tips for other upcoming holidays and additional ways to celebrate safely this holiday season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>



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Subject/holiday	Timing	Facebook Message	Twitter/Instagram Message
Winter Solstice	On Dec. 21	<p>Winter is officially here! This winter, consider holding a virtual snowman-building competition with friends and family, or going on an outdoor scavenger hunt to find birds, icicles, holiday lights, snow shovels, animal tracks or frozen leaves.</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for tips on celebrating safely this holiday season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>Winter is here! This winter, consider holding a virtual snowman-building competition or going on an outdoor scavenger hunt to find icicles, holiday lights & more.</p> <p></p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for ideas on how to safely celebrate all season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>
Las Posadas	Prior to Dec. 16	<p>When making plans for #LasPosadas, consider delivering mini piñatas filled with treats and gifts to family and friends.</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more #LasPosadas ideas, as well as tips for other upcoming holidays and additional ways to celebrate safely this holiday season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>When making plans for #LasPosadas, consider delivering mini piñatas filled with treats and gifts to family and friends.</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on how to safely celebrate all season long. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>
Las Posadas	Dec. 16 - 24	<p>During #LasPosadas, consider praying the rosary with relatives either virtually or over the phone. </p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more #LasPosadas ideas, as well as tips for other upcoming holidays and additional ways to celebrate safely this holiday season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>During #LasPosadas, consider praying the rosary with relatives either virtually or over the phone. </p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on how to safely celebrate all season long. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>

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Subject/ holiday	Timing	Facebook Message	Twitter/Instagram Message
Nochebuena	Before Dec. 24	<p>This #Nochebuena, consider letting kids make DIY piñatas, dropping poinsettias at the doorsteps of loved ones, or packaging to-go meals of lechón, beans, and =rice for friends and family to pick up & take home.</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more #Nochebuena ideas, as well as tips for other upcoming holidays and additional ways to celebrate safely this holiday season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>This #Nochebuena, consider letting kids make DIY piñatas, dropping poinsettias at a loved one's home, or making to-go meals of lechón for friends and family.</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on how to safely celebrate all season long. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>
Christmas	Prior to Dec. 25	<p>This #Christmas, make your own holiday season to-do list with things like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bake cookies ✓ Write to Santa ✓ Sing Christmas carols ✓ Watch a holiday movie ✓ Make paper snowflakes ✓ Build a gingerbread house ✓ Learn about a holiday tradition in another country <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more #Christmas ideas, as well as tips for other upcoming holidays and additional ways to celebrate safely this holiday season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>This #Christmas, make a holiday season to-do list with things like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bake cookies ✓ Write to Santa ✓ Watch a holiday movie ✓ Make paper snowflakes ✓ Build a gingerbread house <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on safely celebrating this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>

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Subject/ holiday	Timing	Facebook Message	Twitter/Instagram Message
Christmas	Before Dec. 25	<p>This #Christmas, consider organizing a drive-by caroling event to surprise loved ones, making a holiday season to-do list or bingo card, or working with neighbors to create a drive-by light display block party.</p>  <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more #Christmas ideas, as well as tips for other upcoming holidays and additional ways to celebrate safely this holiday season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>This #Christmas, consider planning a surprise drive-by caroling event or working with neighbors to create a drive-by light display block party.</p>  <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on how to safely celebrate all season long. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>
Kwanzaa	Prior to Dec. 26	<p>As #Kwanzaa nears, consider holding a virtual kinara lighting with extended family and friends, or asking loved ones to write or share a favorite poem or story.</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more #Kwanzaa ideas, as well as tips for other upcoming holidays and additional ways to celebrate safely this holiday season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>As #Kwanzaa nears, consider holding a virtual kinara lighting with extended family and friends, or asking loved ones to write or share a favorite poem or story.</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on how to safely celebrate all season long. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>

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Subject/ holiday	Timing	Facebook Message	Twitter/Instagram Message
Kwanzaa	Dec. 26 – Jan. 1	<p>Happy #Kwanzaa! Still looking for ways to connect with friends and family outside of your household? Consider holding a virtual celebration of music with mini performances from homes, or creating a playlist you can all enjoy with each person’s favorite #Kwanzaa song.</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more #Kwanzaa ideas, as well as tips for other upcoming holidays and additional ways to celebrate safely this holiday season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>Happy #Kwanzaa! Still looking for ways to connect with friends and family outside of your household? Consider holding a virtual celebration of music with mini performances from homes, or creating a playlist you can all enjoy with each person’s favorite #Kwanzaa song.</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on how to safely celebrate all season long. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>
New Year’s Eve	Prior to Dec. 31	<p>How will you ring in the #NewYear? Send noisemakers and party hats to friends and family in advance, then have everyone sign onto a virtual New Year’s Eve party just before midnight to welcome 2021! 🎉🥳</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more tips and ideas for celebrating safely this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>Ring in the #NewYear with a virtual #NYE party! Send noisemakers & party hats to friends & family in advance, then have everyone sign on before midnight to welcome 2021! 🎉🥳</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on safely celebrating this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>

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Subject/ holiday	Timing	Facebook Message	Twitter/Instagram Message
New Year's Day	On Jan. 1	<p>Happy New Year! Do you have a traditional New Year's Day meal? Whether it is eating pork, sauerkraut, pickled herring, or black-eyed peas, we hope it brings you luck in 2021! 🍀</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more tips and ideas for celebrating safely this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>Happy New Year! Do you have a traditional New Year's Day meal? Whether it is eating pork, sauerkraut, pickled herring, or black-eyed peas, we hope it brings you luck in 2021! 🍀</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on safely celebrating this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>
Epiphany	Prior to Jan. 6	<p>As #Epiphany nears, consider baking mini kings' cakes and leaving them on the doorsteps of friends and family, or having a crown-making contest. 👑</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more tips and ideas for celebrating safely this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>As #Epiphany nears, consider baking mini kings' cakes and leaving them on the doorsteps of friends and family, or having a crown-making contest. 👑</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on safely celebrating this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>
Orthodox Christmas	Prior to Jan. 7	<p>As you plan for #OrthodoxChristmas, consider having a virtual watch party to celebrate Christmas Mass with your local church or a church abroad. ⭐</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more tips and ideas for celebrating safely this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>As you plan for #OrthodoxChristmas, consider having a virtual watch party to celebrate Christmas Mass with your local church or a church abroad. ⭐</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on safely celebrating this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>

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Subject/ holiday	Timing	Facebook Message	Twitter/Instagram Message
Orthodox New Year's Day	Prior to Jan. 14	<p>As you prepare for Orthodox New Year, consider planning a virtual celebration with dancing and sharing what you're thankful for as you head into the new year. 🎉</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more tips and ideas for celebrating safely this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>As you prepare for #OrthodoxNewYear, consider planning a virtual celebration with dancing and sharing what you're thankful for as you head into the new year. #OldNewYear 🎉</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on safely celebrating this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>
Orthodox Epiphany	Prior to Jan. 19	<p>As you make plans for celebrating Orthodox Epiphany, consider holding an in-home blessing this year, or visiting a nearby body of water with your household family members.</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more tips and ideas for celebrating safely this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>As you make plans for celebrating #OrthodoxEpiphany, consider holding an in-home blessing this year, or visiting a nearby body of water with your household family members.</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on safely celebrating this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>
Bodhi Day	Prior to Jan. 20	<p>As you prepare for #BodhiDay, consider organizing a virtual meditation, making heart-shaped decorations to send to loved ones, or livestreaming a Bodhi Day service from a Buddhist temple. 🧘</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more tips and ideas for celebrating safely this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>As you prepare for #BodhiDay, consider organizing a virtual meditation, making heart-shaped decorations for loved ones, or livestreaming a Bodhi Day service. 🧘</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on safely celebrating this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>

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Subject/ holiday	Timing	Facebook Message	Twitter/Instagram Message
Tu BiShvat	Prior to Jan. 27	<p>While you're making plans for #TuBiShvat, consider organizing a virtual seder, planting an indoor herb garden, or taking steps to reduce your carbon footprint. 🌱</p> <p>Download the @Ohio Department of Health holiday guide for more tips and ideas for celebrating safely this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>	<p>While you're making plans for #TuBiShvat, consider organizing a virtual seder, planting an indoor herb garden, or taking steps to reduce your carbon footprint. 🌱</p> <p>Download the @OHDeptofHealth holiday guide for more ideas on safely celebrating this season. https://bit.ly/36H8apf</p>